



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
10001 TANK BATTALION AVENUE  
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000

AFZF-CG

10 June 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR Major Subordinate Commanders

SUBJECT: Fourth of July Holiday Safety Message

1. On Independence Day, we all will celebrate the birth of our great Nation and 227th anniversary of our independence. Since that historic event in 1776, this Nation and our ancestors have endured many hardships and struggles to make this great country what it is today; and our commitment to the ideals of "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness" have been tested numerous times.
2. We, in the military, have a special role in this national celebration since it was soldiers – like those in our Army today – who fought for and secured our Nation's independence. Our soldiers proudly continue to defend freedom here and throughout the world. As we celebrate our Nation's birthday and enjoy this 4-day weekend with family and friends, I encourage all of you to remember the men and women who bravely fought and died for independence and for the freedom we enjoy.
3. During this holiday weekend, safety must be our number one priority. So that all return safely, commanders must ensure that soldiers are briefed on the following subjects prior to being released for the holiday weekend: POV safety - to include prevention of automobile and motorcycle accidents. So far this fiscal year, we have lost more soldiers due to POV accidents than we have for the same periods in each of the 3 previous years. Direct leadership involvement can instill POV safety emphasis in soldiers. Stress to soldiers the importance of using seat belts, not speeding, and not driving while fatigued or intoxicated. Brief them on water safety - to include accident preventive measures for swimming and boating (including water skiing). Emphasize the potentially fatal consequences of not wearing life jackets and drinking while boating. Heat injuries - stress preventive measures for sunburn and heat injury. Fireworks safety should also be discussed and passed on to family members. Safety knowledge saves lives! Briefing resources can be found under "Phantom Safety" on the III Corps and Fort Hood web site (<http://www.hood.army.mil/>).
4. Finally, I invite all soldiers, family members, and civilians to help celebrate the 4th of July at their various installations' Independence Day activities. These are always great fun and include numerous patriotic displays, fireworks, and fun activities for our soldiers and families. Enjoy the holiday and return safely.

THOMAS F. METZ  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding